

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A Method ~~method~~ for applying a layer of a second material to a layer of a nanocrystalline first material, comprising the steps of:
 - (i) providing a layer of a nanocrystalline first material on a horizontal substrate ~~(3)~~₁;
 - (ii) providing a liquid ~~(12)~~ containing the second material₁;
 - (iii) providing a tubular dispensing means ~~(2)~~ to be disposed horizontally and provided with lateral outlet ~~10~~ openings₁;
 - (iv) disposing the dispensing means ~~(2)~~ above the layer of nanocrystalline material₁;and
 - (v) displacing the dispensing means ~~(2)~~ and the layer of nanocrystalline material relative to each other in lateral horizontal direction of the dispensing means ~~(2)~~, while simultaneously supplying the liquid ~~(12)~~ with the second material to the dispensing means ~~(2)~~.
2. (Currently Amended) An Apparatus ~~(1)~~ for applying a layer of a second material to a layer of a nanocrystalline first material in accordance with ~~a~~ the method as ~~Claimed~~ in claim 1, comprising a tubular dispensing means ~~(2)~~ to be disposed horizontally and provided with lateral outlet openings, a liquid container ~~(5)~~₁ and conduit means ~~(4, 9, 10)~~ for carrying liquid ~~(12)~~ from the liquid container ~~(5)~~ to the dispensing means ~~(2)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that it is provided with further comprising~~ displacing means (3, 7) for displacing the dispensing means (2) and the layer of nanocrystalline material relative to each other in lateral horizontal direction of the dispensing means (2).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the displacing means comprise a carrier (3) displaceable in horizontal direction relative to the dispensing means (2) for carrying ~~and~~ and displacing a layer of nanocrystalline material in lateral direction relative to the dispensing means (2).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the displacing means comprise an XY table.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that it is provided with further comprising~~ heating means (8) for heating a layer of a nanocrystalline material during performing of the method.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the tubular dispensing means (2) is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line (4) and is closed at a second outer end.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a liquid circulation line or a second liquid supply line.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the lateral outlet openings are provided in the top side of a horizontally disposed tubular dispensing means ~~(2)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the tubular dispensing means ~~(2)~~ has a circular outer periphery in vertical cross-section.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The Apparatus (1)~~ as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the conduit means comprise a liquid metering pump ~~(9)~~.